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Musket

Vol. XXIX, No. 6 Lexington High School, Lexington, Mass. April 1, 1996

At left, someone claiming to be Phil Oliff engages in Oliff's signature sport: cross-country. At right, the man who says he's Phil Lanoue plays his principal part. But are they the same man?

photos by J. Edgar Hoover

The truth is out: Phil Lanoue is really Phil Oliff

by Offer J. Egozy

Comb his hair straight, change his glasses, and put street clothes on first-year principal Philip Lanoue and who do you get? None other than senior Philip Oliff.

The rumors have been flying ever since the mysterious principal arrived on the scene in September. An anonymous senior told Musket editors, "I remember wondering where Phil [Oliff] had disappeared to during the first assembly with Mr. Lanoue." Another informant added, "Phil comes into A-block Western Traditions five minutes late every day, huffing and puffing." Readers are reminded that Mr. Lanoue does the morning announcements.

A keen-eyed group of students have investigated the activities of our principal. Some have noticed that Mr. Lanoue never attended any Cross-Country meets this year, yet the team received much recognition during morning announcements. It is no coincidence that Phil Oliff was a co-captain of the team this year. Main Office secretary Mary Radz remarked, "I thought it was kind of strange when Phil [Lanoue] came in one day with Adidas running sneakers on." When Phil Oliff went away on Model U.N. trips, Mr. Lanoue somehow managed to go to "out of town conferences."

The LHS senior claims to be "Philip C. Oliff." The principal calls himself "Philip D. Lanoue." Notice that the middle initial is one letter different, and the first names are identical. In addition, the "L" and "O" are conserved between the last names. The school nurse reported their medical histories to the Musket. "Both the principal and the student use Ventolin inhalers for their asthma," says the nurse.

Who is this man? Is he the diligent, outspoken student respected by peer and teacher alike? Or is he the clean-cut, married forty-something man who claims to have been principal in Vermont? Or is he someone else, someone who has been playing a dirty trick on unsuspecting Lexingtonians, someone with a diabolical plan of suburban conquest? The task remains of incriminating the man in the act of switching identities. Please be wary of your classmate/principal. He is not what he seems.

Reformed Mass. reform law: 1000 hours next year

by Offer J. Egozy

In what appears to be a blow to Lexington's education reform efforts, the Massachusetts Board of Education on March 15 decided to raise the number of required school hours per year from 990 to 1000.

A 1993 law, referred to almost fondly as "990" by Lexington education policy wonks, mandated that all Massachusetts secondary school students spend 990 hours a year in "core curriculum" classes by 1997. Over the past two years, teachers and administrators at LHS have been working feverishly to develop schedules and curricula that meet the law's standards. The education board's recent announcement has placed all plans for next year's changes in flux.

Newly appointed Board of Education chair John Silber calls the increase part of his "Rounding Up Education" plan. Though Silber responded to *Musket* inquiries only by moaning "not those junkfood-digesting teenage journalists," an education board spokeswoman says that Silber wants to "round up" truants and delinquents, renegade students who take an active interest in their own education, and teachers with innovative or unconventional views. Rounding the school-hour requirement up to 1000 from 990 was a symbolic first move in that process.

"This is incredible," says a stunned Principal Philip Lanoue in response to the state's announcement. In order to devise a response to the new requirement, Lanoue has mobilized Lexington's estimated 37 task forces involved with implementing the 1994 education reform law. The administration has also created a "Ten Hour Committee" to determine how to fit the extra hours into the schedule and to plan how to use the additional learning time.

"The Ten Hour Committee should have a mission statement in eight to ten weeks," says Associate Principal Paul Brown. "At that time we will be able to list our goals and put together a draft plan to present to the Superintendent, the School Committee, the Schedule Committee, the Principal's Instructional Council, the Site-Based Council, the Student-Faculty Senate, the PTA, the LEA, the DOE, the CIA, and the House Whitewater Investigation Committee."

LHS math teacher Kevin Kelly, who as head of the Schedule Committee helped design the prototype 990-hour schedule for 1996-1997, offered no official comment. However, Kelly and other scheduling gurus did start a small bonfire in J-House with copies of the now-defunct schedule for next year. The Schedule Committee's blueprint offered 990 class hours within a 180-day school year; there was hardly a moment to spare.

English faculty were more Shakespearean in their condemnation of the ten-hour increase. Noting the ominous date of the Board of Education's decision, British Literature teacher Patricia Maier warned, "Beware the Ides of March." Added colleague Richard Shohet, "Something is rotten in the state of Massachusetts."

Students were almost universally outraged by the Board of Education's announcement. Seniors were most complacent. "I'm graduating in June," said Steve Pawliczek. "I don't care what they do as long as there are no heterogeneous classes."

"This is a case of blatant discrimination," says senior Cynthia Lin. "From Moses and his Ten Commandments to the founding parental figures and their ten-point Bill of Rights to the NCAA and its Big Ten, society has been biased against the decimally challenged. We have been conditioned to believe that factors of ten are 'even.' The Board of Education has caved in to Base Ten pressure."

In order to remedy this despicable injustice, Lin, one of the LHS Senate's most ambitious policy-makers, plans to lobby state legislators to change the hour requirement to 547, what she calls "a nice prime number that gives us much more vacation time."

Inside

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR CHILDREN ARE?
Behind the blue and gold lies a streak of red.. *Page 2.*

HOLY WAR IN C-CAF
Biblical scholars go medieval over theology. *Page 3.*

AEROBICS ANYONE?
Your friendly neighborhood *Musket* Editor takes charge of these super steppers. *Page 4.*

Chris Amar scowls after the ever-powerful LHS Senate has thwarted his scheme to overthrow the school. Meanwhile, Dave "Leon Trotsky" Myung plots an insurgency of his own.

Senate stops Amar Brothers takeover

by Offer J. Egozy

The plan was in place from the moment they set foot on Lexington soil. The Amar brothers would take over the school. Chris appeared to his classmates as a quiet, unassuming novice debater, and slowly but surely gained political support. By May of 1994, Chris had won a resounding victory for the presidency. The next year, he rigged the elections process and won again, paving the way for his younger brother Jonathan.

The brothers made one fatal mistake, however. They failed to takeover the ever-powerful Senate, although they came very close. An ad-hoc committee formed to deal with the problem contacted the Bloodhound Gang last month and has cracked down on the evil plot. A bill is currently in the works that should stymie the power of the Amar brothers and prevent the possibility of any other of their relatives from taking office at Lexington ever again.

LHS: in the red

The recent discovery that chemistry teacher Judy Masselam is a former high-ranked Communist spy only augments the increasingly well-founded fear of socialist subversives at LHS. Just last year, Masselam (alias "Judes" alias "Mrs. Molesselam") used her espionage abilities to uncover the middle name of colleague David J. Olney (alias "DJO" alias "Mr. Moleney"). As a Comintern agent, Masselam was hailed for her ability to assume phony accents and sweet-talk capitalist hardliners. When questioned about her past intelligence activities, she flippantly remarked, "What's that got to do with the price of eggs?"

Both DJO and Masselam refuse to tell any of their former or current students what the "J" stands for. The *Musket* suspects that both are involved in a Communist-chemist plot to overthrow the government and rearrange the Periodic Table. They are unfortunately not the only subversives at LHS. As a public service to our readers, the *Musket* has collected the following list of individuals and organizations with suspicious connections. We advise our readers to defend themselves against this all-to-pervasive threat. Arm yourselves! Don't go anywhere without your *Musket*.

The following people are subversives:

Christopher Amar
Leon Trotsky
Jerry Titus
Carolyn Glabe
Jed Berger
Lawrence Randolph
Amy Seaquist
Janine Geller
Andy Bechtel
Maria Stavropoulos
Andrea Pawliczek
Elizabeth Lupardo
Jonathan Amar
Mike O'Connor
Christie Welt
Jen Doyle
LHS Student-Faculty Senate
LHS English Department
LHS Classics Department
Larry Robinson
Arthur Dulong
Tony Capezza
Diane Lande
Paul Brown
Phil Oliff/Lanoue
David A. Wilson
Phil Geiger
LABOGS
Student Leaders
Peer Leaders
Peer Mediators
People Named Monica
Ultimate Frisbee Club
Rock Climbing Club
Pingpong Club
Forrest Gump
Outdoor Track Team
Step Aerobics Team
Yearbook Staff
Bob Farias
Jesse Herman
Dave Kong's Haircut
Marriott Food Services
Alliance "KGB" Security
Will and Dave Eisner
Cast and Crew of *Hair*
Improv Troupe
Madrigal Choir
The Lexington Minuteman
Minuteman Statue
Steve Pawliczek
Steve's Ice Cream
Dagwood's Deli
Peking Garden
Stoneyfield Farm Yogurt
Chris Van Nostrand's Photo
Lincoln-Douglas Debaters
AB Calculus
Twins in Theology
Dr. Shohet's Cows
D-House
Writing Workshop
Science Building Bathrooms
Mass. Dept. of Education
Life Skills Program
Offer J. Egozy
Andrew Sung
Marx and McCarthy
Mike Horowitz
Ham Radio Club
That Voice on the P.A.
Otis Spunkmeyer
Personnel Service Addicts
The Breakfast Club
Out Together And Sober
RePlace
National Honor Society
Kiran Raj

Letters to the Editor

IN DEFENSE OF TRUE JOURNALISM

To the Editor:

For months I have been trying to keep my feelings to myself. However, I just can't take it anymore. The things that the *Musket* publishes under the flimsy guise of "journalism" are simply poorly conceived, poorly researched, and poorly written smut. Clearly at LHS the only publication worthy of the hours and money invested in it is the Yearbook.

The Yearbook staff exudes commitment. Unlike their counterparts on the *Musket* editorial board, Yearbook editors have never, ever been known to miss a deadline. The Yearbook staff sells its product for a considerable cost; the *Musket*, however, is forced to beg people to accept its publication for free. I am uncertain how to lift LHS from this tragic journalistic quagmire. Perhaps the only solution would be to unite the newspaper and the Yearbook into one entity, under one editor.

Until that time, cancel my subscription.

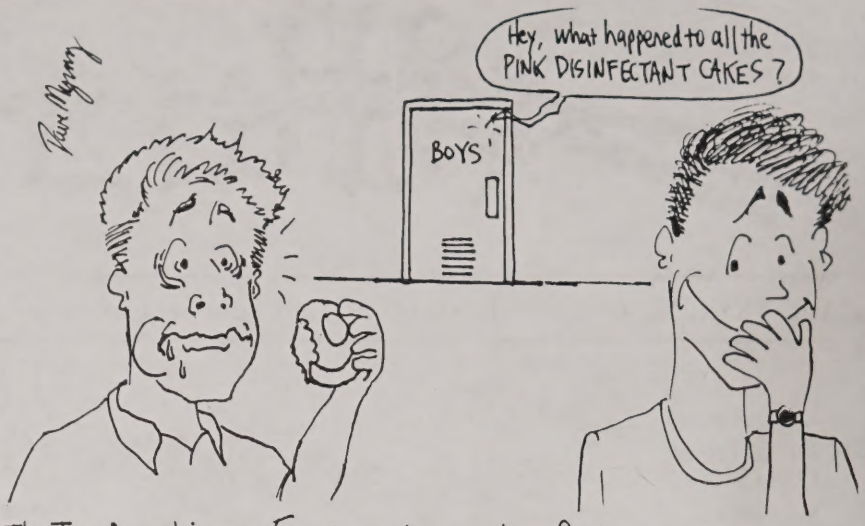
-Katie Gross, Class of 1996
Co-Editor-in-Chief, LHS Yearbook

PURE ELOQUENCE

To the Editor:

As a fellow student at LHS, I would like to respond to Dafna Hochman's scathing February editorial with the following retort: "Oh yeah? Your Mom!"

-Amy DiLuna, Class of 1996
Co-Editor-in-Chief, LHS Yearbook



The Joke is on him: Frank realizes the foul truth about the mysterious "Strawberry shortcake" that Gary gave him after lunch.

Note to LHS: Small is beautiful

Systematic subordination of vertically challenged individuals is evident in all aspects of society, from the towering bookshelves that buttress our academic institutions to the high teller windows of our financial establishments, from the lucrativeness of the growth hormone industry to the glorification of sports in which height is directly proportional to ability. The vertically challenged are constantly forced to tiptoe, jump, or stand on chairs, and are looked down upon, both physically and attitudinally, by the tall. The value society places on height is best epitomized by our fashion trends: the higher the heels worn, the more appealing a female is deemed. As men are generally taller than women, heightism is both a manifestation and an expansion of sexual discrimination, but on a more pervasive scale, for, unlike sexual discrimination, this battle also targest men.

Heightism is so institutionalized, in fact, that it is deeply entrenched in our language. The word "tall" comes from the Middle English *tal*, meaning dexterous and seemly, as well as the Anglo-Saxon *(ge)tael*, meaning swift and prompt. In contrast, the most commonly used term for vertically challenged individuals, the derogatory label "short," comes from the Old High German *scurz*, which means "cut off," connoting a lack of integrity or character.

Height-based discrimination is also rampant at Lexington High School. Many of the school's best resources are out of reach to small people, from the upper compartments of lockers to the nooks in the bleacers (where volleyballs and valuable badminton birdies can be found), from the national emblem flying atop the flagpole to Mr. Stuhr's hair. The name of the school itself is offensive; why not "Lexington Low School"?

If height were devalued, if children were encouraged to remain shorter than their parents, then world hunger, overpopulation, and diminishing resources would cease to pose threats, for a smaller human size would correlate with less food and energy consumption, less waste production, and less body surface area to clothe. However, a society of vertically challenged people can only be established by the forcible overthrow of all existing social conditions.

We have nothing to lose and a world to win. The ground is the limit. Vertically challenged people everywhere, unite!

-Cynthia "Five Foot Proud" Lin

Campus closed

In an unprecedented move late last week, the LHS Senate hastily passed a bill ending all forms of open campus. Principal Lanoue wisely and promptly signed it, putting it in to law. This change was necessary in order to place LHS in good legal standing; the Senate and administrators should receiv praise for acting as quickly and efficiently as they did.

The issue came up in a recent Senate meeting, during which there was a discussion encompassing the new 990 hour schedule. In a close reading of the Massachusetts Education Reform Bill, wary Senator Jake Kissel came upon the by-law in clause 45 of section 1375b.

The by-law prohibits students from using a class period for reasons other than those related to education. In the past, students have been dismayed when they have been told that they couldn't play cards in school, but they never asked why. Apparently, the LHS faculty knew about the by-law, but didn't know to what extent it had to be enforced.

Many students hearing rumors of the abolition were outraged. "I just don't believe it," said junior David Kong, "I mean, I wait two years for this, and then they take it from right under my feet. I feel betrayed that even my fellow students would write a bill like this." Contrary to popular belief, students had no choice in this matter, and to not write a bill would have been unlawful and might have had dangerous repercussions.

In Lanoue's words, "We didn't have a choice in the matter. First of all, you have to understand that Lexington students were given open campus as a privilege, whereas in many other towns they have no open campus at all. We are just ending this privilege, not taking away something that is automatically given to all LHS students. We are following overlooked state guidelines."

In April, students who currently have open campus will get letters in the mail regarding the specifics of the change. Currently, the plan is to have all open campus students assigned to study halls, much like the policy for freshman and sophomores. Students may leave those study halls with passes, but they may only go to designated areas. If LHS is lucky, the Senate will continue to initiate such changes so that our school can be a more lawful place to learn.

-Jesse Herman

Musket

Chief ANALyst ..... Margot Minardi
Secret Agents ..... Stefanie Berman
Adam Bund
Matt Kishlansky
Mindless Ranters ..... Chris Amar
Dave Eisner
Steve Pawliczek
Good-for-Nothings ..... Rochelle Mackey
Nick Rose
Studs ..... Phil Oliff/Lanoue
J.R. Rudman
Duds ..... Dave Myung
Jesse Herman
Peeping Toms ..... Eling Chang
Tom Kennedy
Joe Yoon
Chief Extortionist ..... Kiran Raj
Computer Nerd ..... Alex Roetter

* * *

Big Brother ..... Sam Kafrissen
Printer ..... Belmont Printing Company

* * *

Slanderers ..... Emily Blumsack, Christine Chiou, Amy DiLuna, Dave Kong, Cynthia Lin
Friends ..... Chandler, Phoebe, Rachel, Monica, Ross, and Joey
Cartoonist ..... Dave Kong

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The opinions expressed on these editorial pages are the views of either the *Musket* editorial board or of individual staff members. They are not necessarily a reflection of school policy, nor are they intended to mirror the ideas of every student. Therefore, *Musket* realizes its responsibility to consider other opinions. Any complaints or objections to this or any other issue should be forwarded to Offer J. Egozy, Yale University, New Haven, CT 06024. Direct gratuitous praise to Margot Minardi and monetary recompense to Dave Myung, both via the *Musket* box in the Student Activities Center.

Rare mutations in the senior class gene pool may explain the disturbing results of the School Committee's 1996 Stud Survey. Psychology teacher Bill McCants said that the Class of 1996 engages in abnormal levels of behavior he scientifically described as "rather odd." These seniors are sadly beyond help.

photo by Eling Chang

Studs: an endangered species since 1994?

by Amy DiLuna

In late March, all girls at LHS took a School Committee-sanctioned survey to find out which of the recently graduated classes are missed most. The winner by a landslide was the class of 1994, whose stars included Andrew J. Thompson and Kevin Driscoll, to name a couple. The class of '95 made a distant second but paled in comparison to its immediate predecessor.

While the results were nearly as shocking as the Massachusetts Youth Risk Behavior Survey, this poll proved a much more important point: that there is absolutely no "babe arsenal" at LHS in 1996. To quote senior Monica Roy, "there are just no babes this year. I sleep with my 1994 yearbook under my pillow every night and dream of the days when the 'double ex' seniors graced this campus. It's pathetic."

While names like Graham Taylor and Jani Groblewski were frequently mentioned, painfully absent were former "BMOC's" like Mike DiLuna and, well, Mike DiLuna. He just wasn't mentioned at all. Leading the studly football contingency was, of course, Ryan Limerick, followed in a close fifth by basketball boy Mike Prensky. The guys of '96 are shocked and dismayed. According to senior John Paul Mahoney, "It's really quite disturbing that the girls in this class cling so tenaciously to the past. '94 is over. Rory O'Connor isn't coming back. Live in the now! Live in the now!"

Girls want more than just another pretty face. They want guys that they worshiped as freshwomen and sophomores, the ones who made their hearts flutter each time they passed in the hall. Senior Kate Peltz says it best: "sure, 1993 had their Joel Chestermans, and 1995 had their Chris O'Connell. But no one can get a motor running like the boys of '94." The solution? "Bring 'em back," says Peltz, "let's have a 1996-1994 mixer. Or maybe one of them would just like to go out with me. That would be fine too."

Just ask current senior Katie Howe, who admittedly spent the majority of her underclasshood in awe of the older generation. "Brian LaValle is the greatest there ever was," she claims, "while T.R. Ludwig could give any one of them a run for their money." Why this obsession? Senior Mike Dimascio confidently suggests, "they just haven't had a date with me yet." The general consensus around campus is one of frustration and disappointment. The boys of LHS are unhappy with these results, as well they should be.

Perhaps the results of this poll are meaningless. Perhaps they have no actual bearing on the future. But can we afford to neglect the implications of such striking statistics? The girls of '96 are dissatisfied. Unable to escape the memory of LHS's "glory days," they are forced to walk the campus with no light of hope in sight, no chance at once again experiencing the thrill of passing Colby Crogan in the hallway.

Further investigations are in order. Many, many *Musket* covers must be devoted to the results of this poll. Most of all, the testosterone-bearing portion of LHS must wake up to a new era, where their best just isn't good enough. As Liz Ryan says, "there's no way to bring them back. But we'll always have our memories. And I'll always have my shrine to Jeremy Hartman."

After the violent confrontation in Theology in Literature last week, students of Mr. Murray and Dr. Shohet have learned to come to class dressed to defend themselves.

photo by Drew Bledsoe

News Briefs

CLASSES TO REPLACE CARTOONS ON SATURDAY A.M.

Rather than extend the school year late into June, Superintendent of Schools Jeffrey Young has decided to open the Lexington schools on Saturdays for the rest of the year to make up for the many school days missed this winter due to snow. When advised that the 11 Saturdays between now and the end of the school year make up for twice the amount of time missed for bad weather, Young commented, "Yes, but who's counting?" At LHS, Saturday classes will run from 7:45 to 2:25, with bus service operating on the same schedule as the other days of the week.

YOUNG REPUBLICANS REVIVED

Perhaps as a result of prominent Presidential candidate and political commentator Pat Buchanan's visit to Lexington last month, the LHS Young Republicans Club has emerged from oblivion. The Club's president is senior Christopher Amar, hailed by supporters and opponents as a younger, thinner Rush Limbaugh. Vice president Dalia Hochman, also a senior, says, "I spent my summer working for a Democratic congressman, but I truly admire Speaker Gingrich. I even think Newt is cute, in a subtle, reptilian way."

Dr. Richard Shohet., a member of the LHS English faculty, will serve as faculty advisor to the revitalized club. Says Shohet, "This may seem an unlikely position for me, but once I learned that Sabina Forbes [wife of former GOP Presidential candidate Steve] owned a cow farm, I knew this party had to be all right."

MYSTERIOUS MILLIE THREATENS INNOCENT STUDENTS

A strange odor lurks in the science building. For the past few months, students have been noticing the strangely disturbing scent that hides around every corner. Senior Alyson Harvey suggests, "maybe it's cheese," while Marilyn Champney thinks "it's probably tuna." A tuna melt? Who knows. One thing is for certain, however: it is most likely the fault of senior Millie Roy. Always a shady character, Roy has been seen slinking around the science building, her shifty eyes apparently concocting a plan to make every physics student's life a living hell. Sure, she seems innocuous enough, but beneath that friendly veneer is a diabolical fiend, an accident waiting to happen. What nefarious deed could this wacky kid be conceiving? Only time will tell. And Millie will tell, if you tickle her.

Mr. Rahman Noodles

Taste the Differential

Holy War in C-caf: Brawl breaks out in Theology in Literature

by Randy Savage

On March 28, Andrew and Benjamin Wolfe allegedly assaulted Eric Schrauwen and Mike Wallerstein in A-block senior Theology in Literature for calling them "dumb blondes." It happened in the middle of teacher Kevin Murray's lecture on the Assyrian destruction of Israel, and apparently emotions got a little out of hand.

"I don't blame any of the kids, except for E.B. Blumsack. She was totally out of line. All in all, though, it was a good scrap."

-Teacher Richard Shohet

The Wolfe brothers struck the victims on the head with their Bibles, crying in unison, "repent." Chris Staecker and Nick Rose immediately administered sleeper holds on the twins, but they were simply too strong. Staecker and Rose were sent flying across the room, and soon the whole class became involved. The class divided into two groups, and then proceeded to bash each other. Epithets and oaths were freely exchanged, as were elbows, fists, and knees. Julie Mooza held a wild Chris Amar at bay with a powerful figure-four-leglock, while Debbie Perlman administered repeated DDT's to a fanatical Kiran Raj.

Eventually, the fighting got so bad that teacher Kevin Murray had to break out his rosary beads and lash the rowdy students into submission.

Teacher Richard Shohet explained while rubbing his shoulder, "Some of the material we cover in this class gets the kids on edge. I don't blame any of the kids, except for E.B. Blumsack, she was totally out of line. All in all, though, it was a good scrap."

What Shohet referred to were the rather bizarre actions of Blumsack. She allegedly climbed up her desk and cried, "Hulkamania rules!" before crashing down upon an unsuspecting Jerry Titus with a devastating atomic leg drop. Titus is reported to be in stable but serious condition at Beth Israel Hospital.

Once Murray got the students under control, class resumed as usual. He did, however, force the Wolfe brothers and Schrauwen and Wallerstein to apologize to each other, and then he put each of them in opposite corners of the room. Blumsack was asked to stay after class to talk to Shohet.

Lexington High School track and field member Todd Rosenfield is still stuck in the sand after taking a practice almost three weeks ago.

Ten LHS seniors will represent U.S. at the Olympics

by John Conceison

The founders of the LHS Pingpong Club all tried out for the Olympics and all ten of them made it. They include: Nick Bartlett, Kiran Raj, Dave Myung, Jon Plumb, Steve Reich, Bryant Lee, Adam Bund, Dave Lee, Jeff Needham,and Brian Claise.

"It's unbelievable. There were only ten slots, and all ten of us made it. It says a lot about the program here," said an ecstatic Steve Reich.

"I hear that we're going to be coached by the one and only Forrest Gump. Wow, what an honor," added Adam Bund.

The Olympians will miss the remainder of the school year in order to prepare for the games in Atlanta. They will, however, be tutored and are expected to graduate in June.

"Academics are the number one priority. I can not make a career out of pingpong no matter how good I am," remarks a level-headed Jon Plumb.

The boys have a tough challenge ahead of them, for they will face formidable opponents in China and South Korea. They are, however, up to the task.

"I'm proud to represent my country at the Olympics. It's a dream come true," said a misty-eyed Nick Bartlett.

Life is short. Step hard.

Step Aerobics takes LHS by storm

by Emily Blumsack
and Cynthia Lin

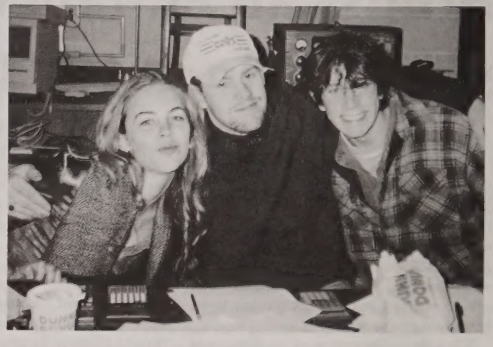
Due to the excess funding acquired through perfect attendance at the recent mandatory pep rallies, the LHS athletic department responded to recent enthusiasm for step aerobics in gym class by establishing a coed competitive team. The team's funds will be allocated to the purchase of new, high-tech Reebok step blocks and peppy uniforms. Physical education instructor Chuck E. "the Cheese" Hunt has been recruited to coach the squad of steppers. "We felt he was the most qualified," explains Athletic Director Brian McNally. "He has an innate sense of rhythm."

Although the athletes have only recently begun their training, several promising steppers have already emerged. One of the most prominent among these Olympic hopefuls is aggressive senior co-captain Margot Minardi. "I love Step Aerobics," she explained, "because unlike most sports, this one actually has a POINT. We're defying the laws of physics by shifting our centers of mass. Although it's a lot of integral $f(x)dx$, the mv and Fv of the team is great. I can't mg to ma the kg m/s^2 North High School team out of a tournament berth!"

The team's favorite routines include the sensual "Stairway to Heaven" and the more rhythmic and butt-burning "Zungo," choreographed by chorus teacher Brian O'Connell. Background music will be supplied by the surprisingly agile Madrigal choir featuring a finger-harp solo performed by Chris Staecker. "Wow. With all the music and stomping, they make more noise than the Senior Class Council!" exclaimed track star and ardent Minardi fan Dave Myung.

Indeed, this budding star who can be seen prowling the Lexington High campus disguised as a senate moderator has attracted a widespread following. Minardi's aggression and utter devotion to the team have already turned the heads of several college recruiters. "Marge has one of the sweetest steps that I've ever seen," said an awestruck Alex Roetter.

Sources say that the hybrid sport and drama senator LABOGS will be putting the group's talent to use in the 1997 musical. Plans to include the step-style dance next year are already underway. "We have to start working now if we hope to create a show that sufficiently displays the steppers," commented thespian Andrew Garland. "It will be the perfect balance of music and movement." As the step team boldly goes where no sport has gone before, the athletic department faces only one risk: There might not be enough room in the bleachers to contain all of the step aerobics team's fans.



Matt Kishlansky is delighted to have triumphed in his policy debate comeback. "I couldn't have done it without Marisa and Cliff," he tearfully declared.

photo by Emily Blumsack

A NOTE TO OUR READERS:

The articles concerning the Lexington High School varsity debate team, traditionally printed on the News page, will from now on appear on the Sports page. Debate is, after all, a sport, for the following reasons: 1. Coach Les Phillips a LOT tougher than Bob Farias; 2. Cross country champions can't begin to appreciate the cardiovascular strength required to read out loud at 300 words per minute; 3. No one on the football team could carry 400 pounds of paper evidence up three flights of stairs; 4. Confronting Ryan Sparacino is not for the faint of heart; 5. The National Forensics League has recently made hockey-style checking a valid strategy for negative teams in policy debate.

After the gym was closed for March's Massachusetts Primary election, an angry member of the wrestling team subdued a rebellious Lexington voter.

Debaters are soooooooooo bad

by Andrew Sung

After a downright humiliating performance at the Tournament of Victors (TOVs) last weekend, the world-renowned Lexington High School varsity debate team emerged with an impressive record of 0-267-1. The squad was astounded by their accomplishment; "I'm speechless," said senior Kiran Raj.

Coach Les Phillips believes this poor showing will trigger global nuclear war. In fact, some debaters are blaming anti-communist reactionaries for replacing their evidence with backdated Late Show Top Ten Lists. "It's the Plow Man's fault!" deplored syndicated columnist and senior debater Ken Shei.

"I guess we were spread too thin," said a weary Mike Horowitz, "or maybe we overflowed. Either way, we were at a disadvantage." Senior Leah Platt was equally puzzled by the defeat. "It's quite a paradox," she asserted, quoting one of her favorite teachers. Senior Brandon Murakami attributed the calamity to his missing tie. "At least I found my favorite shirt," he mused, sporting a hideous beige golf shirt.

In the only quasi-victory of the weekend (a tie), former debating magnate senior Matthew Kishlansky displayed his previously undiscovered ability to make a valid argument. "I owe it all to Marisa Cravens and Cliff Brangwynne. They taught me all I know," he gushed with gratitude.

Some members of the school community view the defeat in a more optimistic light. "At least there will be more room to exhibit student artwork!" exclaimed art teacher Smedley Manion as she eagerly removed debate trophies from the main hall display case.

The highlight of the tournament was an appearance by the legendary team of Dan Marx and Josh McCarthy (LHS '93). They entered the Dramatic Duo competition with their interpretation of *West Side Story*. Marx dazzled the entire judging panel with his luscious portrayal of Maria, the star-crossed lover. "Taiwan, Taiwan, you lovely island. Island of nuclear warheads. Always the fireworks glowing, always the population growing!" hummed Nick "Rosalia" Rose upon exiting the auditorium after the performance.

Unfortunately, Marx and McCarthy suffered in the dance portion of the show. "I just couldn't get that rhythm right," sighed McCarthy, who has returned to his more refined talent of running around in a circle very quickly. Needless to say, former Coach Art Dulong is thrilled.

Fortunately, the team has the entire summer and weeks of surfing in sunny Lake Michigan to recover from this disaster and regroup for their first tournament next season: the prestigious early-bird Gorham Round Robin in Maine.

Varsity Scoreboard

as of April Fool's Day

Step Aerobics.....29-0

Pingpong.....18-0

Contact Debate..0-267-1